

(6) nationwide recognition of the contributions that Native Americans have made to the Nation will encourage self-esteem, pride, and self-awareness in Native Americans of all ages;

(7) designation of the Friday following Thanksgiving of each year as Native American Heritage Day will underscore the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Native American governments; and

(8) designation of Native American Heritage Day will encourage public elementary and secondary schools in the United States to enhance understanding of Native Americans by providing curricula and classroom instruction focusing on the achievements and contributions of Native Americans to the Nation.

SEC. 3. IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY.

Congress—

(1) designates Friday, November 28, 2008, as “Native American Heritage Day”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States, as well as Federal, State, and local governments, and interested groups and organizations to observe Native American Heritage Day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities, including activities relating to—

(A) the historical status of Native American tribal governments as well as the present day status of Native Americans;

(B) the cultures, traditions, and languages of Native Americans; and

(C) the rich Native American cultural legacy that all Americans enjoy today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the reading). Without objection, the reading is dispensed with.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL WORKPLACE WELLNESS WEEK

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Education and Labor be discharged from further consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 405) recognizing the first full week of April as “National Workplace Wellness Week,” and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The text of the House concurrent resolution is as follows:

Whereas comprehensive, culturally sensitive health promotion within the workplace is essential to maintain and improve United States workers' health, as a significant part of a working citizen's day is spent at work;

Whereas employees who improve their health reduce their probability of chronic health conditions, lower their out-of-pocket medical and pharmaceutical costs, reduce

pain and suffering, have greater levels of energy and vitality, and experience increased satisfaction with their lives and jobs;

Whereas health care costs in the United States doubled from 1990 to 2001 and are expected to double again by 2012;

Whereas employee health benefits are the fastest growing labor cost component for employers, and pose a serious and growing challenge for U.S. business competitiveness;

Whereas business leaders are struggling to find strategies to help reduce the direct costs of employer-provided health care as well as the indirect costs associated with higher rates of absenteeism, presenteeism, disability, and injury;

Whereas an effective strategy to address the primary driver of soaring health care costs requires an investment in prevention;

Whereas some employers who invest in health promotion and disease prevention have achieved rates of return on investment ranging from \$3 to \$15 for each dollar invested, as well as an average 28-percent reduction in sick leave absenteeism, an average 26-percent reduction in health care costs, and an average 30-percent reduction in workers' compensation and disability management claims costs;

Whereas the Healthy People 2010 national objectives for the United States include the workplace health related goal that at least three-quarters of United States employers, regardless of size, voluntarily will offer a 5-element comprehensive employee health promotion program that includes—

(1) health education and programming, which focuses on skill development and lifestyle behavior change along with information dissemination and awareness building, preferably tailored to employees' interests and needs;

(2) supportive social and physical environments, including an organization's expectations regarding healthy behaviors, and implementation of policies that promote health and reduce risk of disease;

(3) integration of the worksite program into the organization's structure;

(4) linkage to related programs like employee assistance programs (EAPs) and programs to help employees balance work and family; and

(5) screening programs, ideally linked to medical care to ensure follow up and appropriate treatment as necessary;

Whereas employers should be encouraged to invest in the health of employees by implementing comprehensive worksite health promotion programs that will help achieve our national Healthy People 2010 objectives;

Whereas business leaders that have made a healthy workforce a part of their core business strategy should be encouraged to share information and resources to educate their peers on the issue of employee health management through initiatives such as the Leading by Example CEO-to-CEO Roundtable on Workforce Health and the United States Workplace Wellness Alliance;

Whereas employers that provide health care coverage for more than 177,000,000 United States citizens have the potential to exert transformative leadership on this issue by increasing the number, quality, and types of health promotion programs and policies at worksites across the Nation;

Whereas for workplace wellness efforts to reach their full potential, CEOs of major corporations, company presidents of small enterprises, and State Governors should be encouraged to make worksite health promotion a priority; and

Whereas Congress supports the National Worksite Health Promotion goal as stated in Healthy People 2010 and encourages public employers to increase their awareness of the value of corporate investments in employee

health management during the first full week of April each year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of a National Workplace Wellness Week and calls on private and public employers to voluntarily implement worksite health promotion programs to help maximize employees health, well-being, and lower health care costs; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States and interested organizations to observe such a week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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CONGRATULATING THE ADRIAN COLLEGE BULLDOGS MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Education and Labor be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 1059) congratulating the Adrian College Bulldogs men's hockey team for winning the Midwest Collegiate Hockey Association regular season title and postseason tournament and for having the best first year win-loss record in Division III history, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1059

Whereas the Adrian College Bulldogs men's hockey team just completed its first season with the best first year win-loss record in Division III history in the 2007-2008 season;

Whereas the Bulldogs finished the season with a 26-3 record;

Whereas the Bulldogs won their final 20 games;

Whereas the Bulldogs won the Midwest Collegiate Hockey Association (MCHA) postseason tournament and the Harris Cup;

Whereas the Bulldogs averaged almost 8 goals a game;

Whereas the Bulldogs' excellent first year record earned the team a national ranking and consideration for the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament;

Whereas head coach Ron Fogarty guided the Bulldogs to the best first year win-loss record in Division III history;

Whereas team captain Adam Krug, a junior, was named MCHA Player of the Year, MCHA All-Conference, and MCHA All-Academic;

Whereas freshmen Eric Miller, Shawn Skelly, Chris Sansik, Quinn Wall, and Brad Fogal were named MCHA All-Conference; and

Whereas sophomore Rob Hodnicki received MCHA All-Academic honors: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates and commends the Bulldogs for winning the Midwest Collegiate

Hockey Association regular season title and postseason tournament and for having the best first year win-loss record in Division III history;

(2) recognizes the significant achievements of the players, coaches, students, alumni, and support staff whose dedication and hard work helped the Bulldogs achieve remarkable successes during its first season; and

(3) respectfully requests the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit enrolled copies of this resolution to the following individuals for display:

(A) Dr. Jeffrey Docking, Adrian College President;

(B) Rev. Christopher Momany, Adrian College Chaplain and Director of Church Relations; and

(C) Mr. Mike Duffy, Adrian College Athletic Director.

The resolution was agreed to.

AMENDMENT TO THE PREAMBLE OFFERED BY
MR. ANDREWS

Mr. ANDREWS. I have an amendment to the preamble at the desk.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment to the preamble offered by Mr. ANDREWS:

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas the Adrian College Bulldogs men's hockey team completed its first season in 2007-2008 with the best first year win-loss record in National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III history;

Whereas the Bulldogs finished the season with a 26-3 record;

Whereas the Bulldogs won their final 20 games;

Whereas the Bulldogs won the Midwest Collegiate Hockey Association (MCHA) postseason tournament and the Harris Cup;

Whereas the Bulldogs averaged almost 8 goals a game;

Whereas the Bulldogs' excellent first year record earned the team a national ranking and consideration for the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament;

Whereas there are 420 NCAA Division III schools across the country, making it the NCAA's largest division;

Whereas head coach Ron Fogarty guided the Bulldogs to the best first year win-loss record in NCAA Division III history;

Whereas team captain Adam Krug, a junior, was named MCHA Player of the Year, MCHA All-Conference, and MCHA All-Academic;

Whereas freshmen Eric Miller, Shawn Skelly, Chris Sansik, Quinn Waller, and Brad Fogal were named MCHA All-Conference; and

Whereas sophomore Rob Hodnicki received MCHA All-Academic honors: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates and commends the Adrian College Bulldogs men's hockey team for winning the Midwest Collegiate Hockey Association regular season title and postseason tournament and for having the best first year win-loss record in National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III history;

(2) recognizes the significant achievements of the players, coaches, students, alumni, and support staff whose dedication and hard work helped the Bulldogs achieve remarkable successes during its first season; and

(3) respectfully requests the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit enrolled copies of this resolution to the following individuals for display:

(A) Dr. Jeffrey Docking, Adrian College President.

(B) Rev. Christopher Momany, Adrian College Chaplain and Director of Church Relations.

(C) Mr. Mike Duffy, Adrian College Athletic Director.

Mr. ANDREWS (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING BIRTHPARENTS WHO CARRY OUT AN ADOPTION PLAN

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Education and Labor be discharged from further consideration of H. Con. Res. 239 and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 239

Whereas once a pregnant woman and the man involved in the pregnancy (the birthparents) decide that they are unable to parent a child, carrying out an adoption plan is highly admirable;

Whereas for the birthparents, carrying out an adoption plan can be an expression of great love for the child and can be what it means to be the best parent possible;

Whereas birthparents who decide to carry out an adoption plan come from all walks of life, with various backgrounds and socioeconomic status;

Whereas in 2002 (the most recent year for which such statistics are available), there were 22,291 domestic infant adoptions in the United States;

Whereas birthparents should be recognized, honored, and commended for making a loving decision to carry out an adoption plan; and

Whereas Congress should endeavor to do more to support birthparents who carry out an adoption plan: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress recognizes and honors birthparents who carry out an adoption plan.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. ANDREWS

Mr. ANDREWS. I have an amendment at the desk.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. ANDREWS:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

“That Congress recognizes and acknowledges the important role of adoption, and commends all parties involved, including birthparents who carry out an adoption plan, adoptive families, and adopted children.”.

The amendment was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

AMENDMENT TO THE PREAMBLE OFFERED BY
MR. ANDREWS

Mr. ANDREWS. I have an amendment to the preamble at the desk.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment to the preamble offered by Mr. ANDREWS:

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas in 2002, there were 22,291 domestic infant adoptions in the United States;

Whereas birthparents who decide to carry out an adoption plan come from all walks of life, with various backgrounds and socioeconomic status;

Whereas birthparents who carry out an adoption plan should be recognized and commended for doing what they believe is in the best interest of their child;

Whereas loving, nurturing adoptive families make it possible for birthparents to carry out an adoption plan;

Whereas adoptive families make an important difference in the life of a child through adoption and show the compassionate spirit of our Nation;

Whereas adoptive families should be recognized and commended for providing a permanent, safe, and loving home for a child;

Whereas studies have shown that adopted children form deep emotional bonds with their adoptive parents indistinguishable from those biological children form with their parents;

Whereas adopted children grow up to make valuable contributions to our Nation and lead fulfilling lives;

Whereas adopted children should be recognized and commended for understanding that the choice of the birthparents to carry out an adoption plan may be a difficult and carefully considered decision made out of love for a child; and

Whereas Congress should do more to support adoption, including birthparents who carry out an adoption plan, adoptive families, and adopted children: Now, therefore, be it

Mr. ANDREWS (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

The title was amended so as to read: “Concurrent resolution recognizing and acknowledging the important role of adoption, and commending all parties involved, including birthparents who carry out an adoption plan, adoptive families, and adopted children.”.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bills considered during the last few minutes here.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.